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The young King, from a high turret window, watched the conflagrations reddening the heavens.¹ In all parts of the city and its suburbs the names shot up from the mansions of those who had displeased the people. Far away to the West, beyond the burning Savoj⁷, fire ascended from mansions in Westminster; ² away to the North blazed the Treasurer's manor at Highbury. Close beneath him lay the rebel camp, whence ominous noises now and again rose. Returning pensive and sad from these unwonted sights and sounds, the boy held counsel with the wisest of his kingdom shut up within the same walls. (*See map*, p. 228.)

It was not likely that the rebels could execute their threat of storming the Tower, but, on the other hand, the city, the whole kingdom, lay in their hands as a hostage. Something had to be done, and done quickly. Walworth and the bolder spirits were for sallying out at midnight with all their forces. A fierce and sudden onslaught would break up the camp on St. Catherine's Hill, and then the peasants could be 'killed like flies' throughout the streets of London. There was a strong regiment of men-at-arms in the Tower and Sir Eobert Knolles would be certain to co-operate from the city; disdaining to hide in the fortress, he was holding his own house with the retainers who had made his name a terror in France. The plan was calculated to warm the heart of that brave but brutal soldier. Many of the better sort of citizens had armed themselves and their body-servants and could be relied on to join in the massacre. But wiser and milder counsels prevailed. No one could accuse Salisbury of cowardice, for he had * fought like a lion ' before his division at Poitiers and in a hundred onslaughts since. It w&s he who now declared against this rash plan of attack. ' Sire/ he said to the King,' if you can appease them by fair words and grant them what they wish, it will be so much the better; for should we begin what we cannot go through, we shall never be able to recover it. It will be all over with us and our heirs, and England will be a desert/³ The policy of graceful concession was adopted by the Council as the most expedient

¹ ST. jR_M 6IC.

³ *Ibid.* 516, line 7, and 515, lines 30-1,
Butterwyke's house. ³ Froiss., ii, 469-70,